

REMARKS

Claims 11-23, 36-39, 41-65, 67-73, 83-90, 92, 93, 95-101, 103, and 106-133 are pending in this application. Claims 11-14, 36-39, 41-57, 62-65, 67-73, 83-90, 92, 93, 95-101, 103 and 106-133 stand allowed. Claims 16-22 and 59-61 were objected to only as being dependent upon rejected base claims, and are now thought to be allowable in view of the following remarks explaining why those base claims themselves are allowable. Claims 15, 23, and 58 have been rejected. Claims 15, 36 (allowed), 57 (allowed), 58, 62 (allowed), 87 (allowed), 92 (allowed), 95 (allowed) and 97 are independent.

By this Amendment Applicants seek to revise allowed claims 36, 62, 92 and 95 to clarify the nature of the invention described therein, to revise claims 37-39, 43, 40, 63-65, 70, 93 and 96 to conform to those changes, and cancel claims 41 and 67 in view of such changes. The other allowed claims are to be maintained unchanged, and so are believed to remain allowable at least for the reasons previously given. Applicants also seek to add new claims 134 and 135, which correspond respectively to claims 92 and 95 as presented prior to this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 15, 36 (allowed), 57 (allowed), 58, 62 (allowed), 87 (allowed), 92 (allowed), 95 (allowed), 97, 134 and 135 will be independent.

The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 15, 23 and 58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,270,207 to Sasaki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit the following arguments in support thereof.

This rejection is not well-taken, because Sasaki is not prior art as to the present invention. Specifically, this application claims the priority of several Japanese patent